

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/873,235

Applicant(s)

OHARA, HIROMI

Examiner

Art Unit

CHAN S. PARK

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/1/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20051223 + 10/24/05
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


CHAN S. PARK
Examiner
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ALLOWANCE

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/1/05 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment was received on 11/1/05, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-12** are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark R. Woodall, Reg. No. 43,286 on December 20, 2005.

4. The following Examiner Amendment is necessary. The claims rely on the limitation that the printing management device accesses the information on the storing location of the image data in retrieving the image data and transmitting the image data to the desired printer (page 15, line 16 – page 16, line 3 of the Original Specification filed on 6/5/01). Hence, the actual image data produced by the image data producing means is not transmitted to the printing management device initially.

5. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1

A printing system comprising a scanner, multiple printers, a scan server, and a printing management device receiving printing instruction information and transmitting printing information corresponding to the printing instruction information to a corresponding printer among the multiple printers,

the scanner comprising:

printing instruction information setting means for setting printing instruction information including specification of a desired printer among the multiple printers;

image data producing means for producing image data corresponding to the printing instruction information set by the printing instruction information setting means; and

transmitting means for transmitting the printing instruction information set by the printing instruction information setting means, ~~the image data produced by the image data producing means,~~ and information on a storing location of the image data produced by the image data producing means to the printing management device,

the scan server storing and managing the produced image data and being separated from the scanner, and

the printing management device comprising:

storage management means for storing and managing the printing instruction information and ~~the image data transmitted from the transmitting means in association with each other~~ the information on the storing location of the image data produced by the image data producing means; and

reading out means for reading out the image data from the scan server based on the information on the storing location of the image data; and

transmission control means for transmitting the image data corresponding to the desired printer based on the printing instruction information stored and managed in the storage management means to the desired printer ~~from the storing location of the image data indicated in the information on the storing location.~~

Claim 3

A printing system, comprising a scanner device, multiple printers, a storage management means, and a printing management device receiving printing instruction information and transmitting printing information corresponding to the printing instruction information to a corresponding printer among the multiple printers,

the scanner device comprising:

printing instruction information setting means for setting printing instruction information including specification of a desired printer among the multiple printers;

image data producing means for producing image data corresponding to the printing instruction information set by the printing instruction information setting means; and

transmitting means for transmitting the printing instruction information set by the printing instruction information setting means, ~~the image data produced by the image data producing means,~~ and information on a storing location of the image data produced by the image data producing means to the printing management device,

the storage management means for storing and managing the image data produced by the image data producing means and being separate from the scanner device, and

the printing management device comprising:

storage management means for storing and managing the printing instruction information and the information on the storing location of the image data transmitted from the transmission means in association with each other; and

reading out means for reading out the image data from the storage management means based on the information on the storing location of the image data; and

transmission control means for transmitting the image data corresponding to the desired printer based on the printing instruction information stored and managed by the storage management means to the desired printer ~~from the storing location of the image data indicated in the information on the storing location.~~

Claim 7

A printing control method for a printing system including a scanner, a scan server separate from the scanner, multiple printers, and a printing management device receiving printing instruction information and transmitting printing information corresponding to the printing instruction information to a corresponding printer among the multiple printers, the method comprising the steps of:

causing the scanner to set printing instruction information including specification of a desired printer among the multiple printers, produce image data corresponding to the set printing instruction information, and transmit the set printing instruction information, ~~the produced image data,~~ and information on a storing location of the image data to the printing management device,

storing and managing the produced image data in the scan server, and

causing the printing management device to store and manage the printing instruction information and ~~the image data transmitted from the scanner in association with each other,~~ the information on the storing location of the image data transmitted

from the scanner, read out the image data from the scan server based on the information on the storing location of the image data, and transmit the image data corresponding to the desired printer ~~from the storing location of the image data based on the stored and managed printing instruction information.~~

Claim 9

A printing control method for a printing system including a scanner device, multiple printers, a storage management means separate from the scanner, and a printing management device receiving printing instruction information and transmitting printing information corresponding to the printing instruction information to a corresponding printer among the multiple printers, the method comprising the steps of:

causing the scanner device to set printing instruction information including specification of a desired printer among the multiple printers, produce image data corresponding to the set printing instruction information, and transmit to the printing management device the set printing instruction information, ~~the produced image data~~ and information on a storing location of the produced image data;

storing and managing the produced image data in the storage management means; and

causing the printing management device to store and manage the printing instruction information and information on the storing location of the produced image data transmitted from the scanner device in association with each other, read out the image data from the storage management means based on the information on the

storing location of the image data, and transmit the produced image data corresponding to the desired printer based on the stored and managed printing instruction information to the desired printer ~~from the storing location of the produced image data indicated in the information on the storing location.~~

Allowable Subject Matter

6. **Claims 1-12** are allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims (claims 1, 3, 7 and 9) define a system/method comprising a scanner, multiple printers, a scan server, and a printing management device wherein the printing management device includes storage management means for storing and managing the printing instruction information inputted in the scanner and the information on the storing location of the image data produced by the scanner. Furthermore, the printing management device accesses the information on the storing location of the image data in order to retrieve the image data from the scan server and to transmit the image data to the desired printer specified in the scanner as described in the Specification (page 15, line 16 – page 16, line 3).

Some of the prior art related to a printing system having a server for storing and transmitting the image data to an appropriate printer.

Owa (U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971) discloses a printing management device for selecting an optimum printer for printing a document based on the user information indicating such conditions as print commands and specifications, and based on printer

Art Unit: 2622

information concerning print environments of the printers and causes the optimum printer to print the image data. However, Ogawa does not teach the applicant's claimed combination of storing the information on a storing location of the image data and transmitting the image data to the desired printer using the scan server and the printing management device.

Ogawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,739) discloses a network system includes a scanner and a file server for storing the image data scanned by the scanner. However, Ogawa does not teach the applicant's claimed combination of storing the information on a storing location of the image data and transmitting the image data to the desired printer using the scan server and the printing management device.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S. PARK whose telephone number is (571) 272-7409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

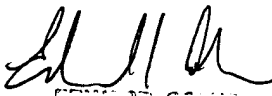
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2622

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

csp
December 20, 2005

Chan S. Park
Examiner
Art Unit 2622



EXAMINER
SUPERVISOR
TECHNICAL